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COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY

Letter dated 20 October 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Mauritania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I should be grateful if you would have circulated, as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda item 27, the text of the communiqué adopted at the ninth session of the Ad Hoc Committee of Heads of State and Government on Southern Africa of the Organization of African Unity, held on 15 October 1992 at Gaborone, Botswana (see annex).

(Signed) Mohamedou O. M. MAHMOUD
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
Mauritania to the United Nations
Chairman of the Group of
African States

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ANNEX

Communiqué adopted on 15 October 1992, at Gaborone, by the Ad Hoc Committee of Heads of State and Government on Southern Africa of the Organization of African Unity

1. The Ninth Session of the OAU Ad Hoc Committee of Heads of State and Government on Southern Africa was held at Gaborone, Republic of Botswana, on 15 October 1992 under the chairmanship of H.E. President Abdou Diouf of Senegal and current Chairman of OAU, to review developments in southern Africa.

On South Africa

2. The Committee considered the report of the Secretary-General of the Organization as well as the reports of the OAU Fact-Finding Mission of Experts which visited South Africa from 14 September to 3 October 1992, and expressed deep concern over the continuation of violence in South Africa.

3. The Committee condemned the perpetrators of such violence, and reiterated that the South African Government had the central responsibility to protect the lives and property of ALL South Africans and appealed to the political leaders to contribute anything they could to end that violence.

4. In this context, the Committee entrusted the Chairman of the Front-line Heads of States with the responsibility of working out the mechnanisms, including contacts with the political actors in South Africa, in order to commit all of them to a peaceful resolution of the problem facing the country.

5. The Ad Hoc Committee welcomed the adoption by the United Nations Security Council of resolution 772 (1992) and the deployment of a United Nations monitoring team in South Africa, and in view of the escalating violence, appealed to the Security Council to reinforce the role of that team, including consideration of deploying peace-keeping forces in future.

6. As part of the efforts aimed at creating a climate conducive to free political activities and thereby enhancing the negotiation process, the Ad Hoc Committee requested the Secretary-General to deploy observers who, while maintaining their independence, will nevertheless cooperate with the United Nations observers and others already on the ground in South Africa. In this connection, the Secretary-General was authorized by the Committee to appoint a Special Representative with the necessary supporting staff, who would coordinate the actual deployment and activities of OAU observers inside South Africa. The Committee further decided that such observers should be deployed for an initial period of three months, but requested the Secretary-General to review the situation thereafter and, should the need arise, continue with their deployment.

7. The Committee once again underscored the need for the liberation movements and other progressive forces to get together within the context of a

united front of the oppressed people. It therefore urged them, in cooperation with the Chairman of the Front-line States, to work for the setting up of a forum where a broad agenda of common understanding could be reached to ensure a concerted approach towards the negotiation process. Furthermore, the Committee reiterated its support for a multilateral negotiating forum, representing a broad spectrum of all sections and interests in South Africa and expressed the hope that the series of bilateral talks between the South African Government and different groups in the country will ultimately lead to broad-based multilateral negotiations for the establishment of an Interim Government/Transitional Authority, as well as working out the modalities for an elected Constituent Assembly which would draw up a new Constitution for a united, democratic and non-racial South Africa.

8. The Committee viewed with grave concern the presence and deployment of foreign mercenaries by the South African Government and demanded their expulsion.

9. Finally the Committee acknowledged that the struggle for the establishment of a united, democratic and non-racial Government in South Africa had entered its most crucial and difficult stage. It noted the fact that while the Government had all the vast resources of State at its command, the liberation movements continued to be hampered in their mobilization drives by lack of resources and institutionalized opposition especially in the homelands. The Committee felt that the time was appropriate for OAU to decide the type and scope of assistance that would be extended to the liberation movements as they prepared for the anticipated elections to a Constituent Assembly in South Africa.

On Angola

10. The Ad Hoc Committee hailed the peaceful and orderly manner in which the people of that country conducted themselves during the recently held elections. It took note of the conclusions of all the international observers as well as of those sent by OAU, that the elections were free and fair.

11. The Committee appealed to leaders of all political parties in Angola, in particular the leadership of UNITA, to respect the will of the Angolan people. While taking note of the initiatives already undertaken by OAU and in order to express Africa's serious concern on the situation in Angola and unequivocal support for the process of democratization, the Ad Hoc Committee decided to send, as a matter of urgency, a very high level delegation to Luanda. The delegation is to comprise President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe, President Antonio Mascarenhas of Cape Verde and the Secretary-General of OAU, Mr. Salim Ahmed Salim. The delegation hopes to meet in Luanda with President José Eduardo Dos Santos and Dr. Jonas Savimbi, President of UNITA.

On Mozambique

12. The Ad Hoc Committee welcomed the recent signing of a Peace Accord between the Government of Mozambique and RENAMO. It appealed to the signatories of the Peace Accord to respect the letter and spirit of the

Agreement so that the process of reconciliation, reconstruction, rehabilitation and democratization may commence in that country.

13. It commended President Joaquim Alberto Chissano and the Government of the Republic of Mozambique for the spirit of flexibility and compromise demonstrated during the negotiation process, which led to the conclusion of the General Peace Agreement.

14. The Committee further congratulated the Mozambican people and noted that the Agreement opens new perspectives for national reconciliation and the normalization of the lives of all Mozambicans.

15. The Committee paid a tribute to the contribution made by Africa, particularly by Presidents Robert G. Mugabe of Zimbabwe, Sir Ketumile Masire of Botswana and Mr. Daniel A. Moi of Kenya, to the solution of the conflict in Mozambique. It further commended the role played by the mediators, namely the Italian Government, the Saint Egidio community and the Catholic Church, in the harmonization of positions of the parties to the conflict.

16. The Committee appealed to the international community for assistance to Mozambique in implementing the General Peace Agreement, particularly in monitoring the cease-fire and the electoral process, and in the economic and social reintegration of the demobilized military from both sides, as well as the displaced Mozambican war refugees. In this context, the Committee requested the Secretary-General to ensure the effective participation of OAU in the implementation of the General Peace Accord of Mozambique.

On the drought situation in southern Africa

17. The Ad Hoc Committee expressed appreciation to the international community for the assistance so far rendered and renewed its appeal for further assistance to the States affected by the worst drought in the region. It expressed satisfaction with the coordinated approach of SADCC and the States of the region in the handling of the drought situation.

Appreciation

18. The Ad Hoc Committee of Heads of State and Government on Southern Africa expressed its appreciation and gratitude to H.E. Sir Ketumile Masire, the Government and people of the Republic of Botswana for the warm welcome and traditional African hospitality as well as excellent facilities placed at the disposal of all delegations during their stay in Gaborone.